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But There Was Enough Yesterday

Food Stall Boom 'Drastic'

A drastic increase in the number of needy persons with welfare cards seeking food from Victoria's Free Food Stall was noted yesterday by convener Mrs. Alice Harper.

"We dropped down to 250 families, and now we're up to 295," she said. "We've had a lot of young, single men added to our list."

But there was plenty of food to go around.

The Victoria-Saanich Inlet Anglers' Association donated more than 100 pounds of herring, salmon and cod, and from other sources came a ton of potatoes, 800 pounds of carrots and plenty of bread, sugar and oats.

Enough money was donated to buy half a pound of butter for every family, Mrs. Harper said. And 15 to 20 dozen eggs were given out to elderly people.

"We feel grateful, indeed," she said. "Words are not adequate to thank Victorians for their response."

The next food stall will be held Saturday, March 21.

They Found Little Victim's Body

Two men in a rowboat who found the body of two-year-old Deborah Lenore Spouse floating about 60 feet from the shore of Esquimalt harbor at about 8.15 last night, are H. A. Charlewood, left, of 298 Bessborough, and William MacKay of 291 Helmcken. "If only they'd called us earlier," said one of the men sorrowfully.—(Colonist photo)

Boatman Battles Flames

A boat burst into flames and sent its owner to hospital with second degree burns to his hands and face yesterday when an attempt was made to start it at the fishing float near Gorge Bridge.

In good condition is Bert Leggett, 30, occupant of the Happy Wanderer. Police said Leggett had just returned from Victoria harbor to his berth above the bridge after filling the gas tank.

Here Come Daffodils

The lucky little miss getting an early breath of spring is five-year-old Marilyn Preston. The daffodil is only one of many in the garden of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Preston, 674 Baker, to burst into bloom. Same plant sets record every year, the owners say.

Civil Servant Charges:

Lower Wages 'Subsidizing' City Workers

A spokesman for 11,250 B.C. civil servants, poised for a general strike, claimed yesterday the provincial government is keeping their pay rates "at least two years behind" outside rates.

The civil servants start voting tomorrow on the strike issue. Ballots are already in the mail.

SUBSIDIZING RATES

The spokesman also charged that government employees' low wage rates are subsidizing "higher rates for certain other public employees" including hospital employees, whose salaries are indirectly paid by the government through the B.C. Hospital Insurance Scheme.

A. C. Bennett, assistant secretary of B.C. Government Employees' Association, said these are the main factors which influenced the unanimous decision to take a strike vote of the members.

BALLOTS DUE

Strike ballots are returnable by March 9.

"The wage pattern in our service has proved conclusively that it is the apparent policy of the government to keep our pay rates at least two years behind outside rates," said Mr. Bennett.

NO INCREASES

He said government employees received no increases in 1953, 1954 or 1955 "other than for a few isolated groups."

The government did, however, grant adjustments April 1, 1956, and July 1, 1957. Mr. Bennett said "the latter increase was only granted at the eleventh hour to avert strike action."

ADJUSTMENT LAGS

He said that since the government only included $1,500,000 for wages increases in the 1959-60 estimates, "there will now be a pay adjustment lag of 27 months from July, 1957, to October, 1959."

Mr. Bennett said 1,000 association members are working in provincial hospitals and their present wage rates are based on outside hospital rates which were in effect in 1956.

THREE YEARS

"Bear in mind, these outside hospital employees are paid out of funds provided by the government through BCHIS," he said. "Government hospital workers are paid out of the same fund and are two years behind now—but if their wages are not adjusted until October, 1959, at that time they will be three years behind municipal hospital workers."

Little Sleep Tonight

There won't be much sleep tonight for 400 little Victorians due to appear in the two-day "Ice Arama" at the Arena, Monday and Tuesday.

Feature of the show will come when the 400 youngsters—from three to 11 years of age—appear in a huge costume parade. And every costume will be the result of a mother's handiwork.

There'll be something for everyone at the big ice show, sponsored by the Victoria Figure Skating Club, Minor Hockey Association and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

More than 600 children and adults—many of them of professional stature—will be contributing to the exciting package which includes comic acts, figure skating, big square dance, Victoria Girls' Drill Team, broom ball, hockey and lacrosse on ice.

Proceeds will go to the fund for a new ice-skating surface behind the arena. A Jaycee house-to-house canvass will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Target is $123,000.

Tickets for the Ice Arama, which starts at 8 p.m. both nights, are all $1 and will be available at the arena, Hudson's Bay store, Hocking and Forbes Sporting Goods on Yates, and MacDonald Furniture and Appliances on Fort.

To Seattle

Ferry Fare Up

Ferry passengers will have to pay more and allow for longer travelling time when the Victoria-to-Seattle service "changes hands" this week.

Washington State Ferries, in co-operation with three bus companies, will maintain the Vancouver Island-United States transportation link when it resumes on Thursday its Sidney-Anacortes service, one day after Canadian Pacific Steamships vacates its triangular run.

COST MORE

Tickets will cost more, and the trip will be about 2¼ hours longer than the CPSS service. WSF price for the 7-hour and 35-minute one-way trip is $5.15, and $9.30 for a round trip. CPSS price for the 5-hour and 5-minute one-way trip is $4.35, and $7.95 for a round trip.

Starting Thursday, a Vancouver Island Coach Lines bus will leave the Wharf Street terminal at 12.01 p.m. daily, connecting with the WSF sailing from Sidney at 1.20 p.m. From Anacortes, Mount Vernon and Greyhound Lines buses will arrive at the Central Greyhound Terminal in mid-Seattle at 7.45 p.m.

Buses leaving the Seattle terminal at 6.15 a.m. daily, will connect with the 9.15 a.m. sailing for Sidney, and bus service from Sidney will bring passengers into Victoria at 1.45 p.m.

FIRST ON RUN

Mv Klickitat, with accommodation for 665 passengers and 90 cars, will be the first ferry on the run. Mv Evergreen State, with a capacity for 1,000 passengers and 110 cars, will join Klickitat later in the summer.

To accommodate Easter holiday traffic, two sailings daily, with connecting bus service on the morning run, will be carried out late in March.

Riders Raise $200 For Donald's Horse

The Colwood Trail Riders have raised nearly $200 to buy a new horse for Donald Fitzpatrick, 13, of 1590 Burnside, whose horse was struck and killed by a car on the Trans-Canada Highway last month.

Nearly 250 persons attended a benefit dance last night at Strawberry Vale hall, so Donald will be able to buy a new horse when he recovers from injuries sustained in the accident.

Seen in Passing

Clem Patterson, producer of the Jaycees Ice Show to be held Monday and Tuesday nights, watching some of the cast in action. (A former member of the Ice-Capades professional skating show, Clem has been figure skating for 13 years. He and wife Jane live at 586 O'Connell Avenue with their two children Mark 4½ years, and Brent three. Clem's hobby, funnily enough, is ice skating. . . . **Fred and Rosaline Pollock** going for a walk along Douglas Street . . . **John Hall** helping a friend caught in a domestic crisis . . . **William Oliver** displaying an old, old history of shipping on the Pacific coast . . . **John Strom** taking over his new duties as trainer for the Sidney Boxing Club.

CLEM PATTERSON

EVergreen 6 Soon

A fifth dial exchange unit—EVergreen 6—will be opened shortly in B.C. Telephone Company's Victoria headquarters building to serve the continued telephone demand in Greater Victoria.

Telephone officials say that well over 320,000 calls daily are now made from the 47,000 phones served by the four existing units making up the EVergreen automatic system.

Weather Wetter Warmer

Wet and warmer weather is predicted for Victoria and the West coast generally during the next month.

The forecast was made in the United States weather bureau's 30-day outlook for Canada and the United States.

Saanich Builders Satisfied

'Freeze' Scrapped; New Bylaw Written

A new scheme to control subdivision development in Saanich was well received yesterday by home builders.

Reeve George Chatterton said municipal council will approve a new bylaw Tuesday to ensure that subdivisions will not become a burden on taxpayers and the municipality.

It will also protect the prospective home owner from buying lots which are undesirable from the sanitary point of view.

CONTROVERSIAL PLAN

The announcement means that the controversial "freeze" plan to prevent sprawl development in the municipality has been scrapped.

Gilbert Brown, president of Victoria Home Builders' Association, said last night "we're quite satisfied with future requirements for subdivisions as outlined by the reeve."

CONCERN EXPRESSED

He said the association called yesterday's meeting with Saanich representatives because it was concerned over new regulations covering sceptic tanks.

However, the reeve explained that a board was to be set up to review cases where soil tests showed ground was unsuitable for sceptic tanks.

CRITICISM JUSTIFIED

Mr. Brown said some criticism of the municipality was justified, however, for its failure to tell contractors and public of the changes before they were put into effect.

Leads Squadron

New commander of 2nd Squadron at Esquimalt is Lt-Cmdr. Donald M. Waters, 37. He succeeds Lt-Cmdr. Stuart G. Moore appointed to naval headquarters.

Skit to Highlight Tourist Meeting

A skit showing how local residents benefit from the tourist industry will be staged by members of the Greater Vancouver Tourist Association at the annual meeting of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau Feb. 27 at the Empress.

T. B. Haskell, president of the Vancouver group, will address the gathering. A new slate of officers will be elected at the noon meeting.

Shell Found In Log

A chunk of ancient metal found mysteriously imbedded in a Kennedy Lake log being sawn at a Port Alberni mill yesterday was described by a Victoria historian as probably part of an old warship cannon shell.

The curved, five-pound piece of metal's position in the log indicated it had been part of the growing tree for more than a century.

It was discovered when the teeth of a saw at the Pacific division sawmill of MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd. in Port Alberni bit into the metal while the log was being converted into lumber.

George Nicholson, regular contributor to the Colonist "Islander" magazine, said last night the description of the find was similar to others made in the area through the years.

The oldtime shells are believed to be grim relics of expeditions by British warships of a century ago against Indian tribes on the west coast of the Island.

'I Know What It's Like,' Says Herbert Bruch

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Today, among others, I received a letter from Herbert Bruch, Esquimalt MLA, who has come in for criticism following a speech he made in the provincial legislature Feb. 17.

Mr. Bruch claims that the words "British Columbia" were left out of the report, giving an incorrect impression.

"My statement was that if they have no other income, our B.C. pensioners don't have to live on $55 a month," he wrote. "This statement is correct even for the 65 to 70 years age group.

"The B.C. old age pensioner, if he has no other means is eligible for a total of $75, of which the federal government pays $27.50 and the B.C. government pays $47.50. Furthermore, I also advocated a broadening of the eligibility requirements.

"The out-of-town residence for pensioners I referred to is a nursing home at Shawnigan Lake . . . The manager informs me she is prepared to take in pensioners at the pension rate."

Referring to criticism from a reader that "he doesn't know" and "guess he never was hard pushed—nice soft job," Mr. Bruch commented:

"For 2½ years, 1948 to 1950, I was laid up with an injury. My average income was $108 a month compensation. Out of this I had to make payments of $35 a month on my two-roomed house at Colwood and support a wife and five children.

"Upon being cut off compensation I took a job which included washing pots and pans at a local hospital, at a wage of $128 a month.

"Yes, I've had to live and eat and sleep in a single room on an income of less than $55 a month per person."

Excerpts from some of the other letters received:

"As a pensioner of 72 I think I know what it's like. Take for instance, that menu prepared by Joan Groves (provincial government nutritionist). Some of us, remember, have small ailments. I cannot have anything spiced, acid or strong flavors in certain vegetables. When you are 70, keep that menu and try it."

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist Office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

"The country is lovely when you have a car or other ways of getting about, but a PRISON when you are crippled with arthritis and can't get out in our wet weather and can't afford bus fares.

"I am a full pensioner and agree with another who wrote, saying one can live on $20 for food and eat properly. I do it all the time but live on more nutritious food than you are doing."

* * *

"I cannot live on $55 a month, yet I cannot eat the things you eat. To overcome that difficulty I stay in bed late and have breakfast and lunch in one meal, toast and tea."

* * *

"One disadvantage is that the old age pensioner has to buy in small quantities and this adds to the cost of living. Could not some welfare agency establish a depot that can buy in large quantities and break it down into small amounts at cost price? I have in mind only staple articles, including perhaps cold roast beef. Even cough mixtures, liniments, etc., which so many older people need could be included."

* * *

Yesterday morning the running account of my finances had to be deleted through lack of space.

My money now stands at $8.87 to last the next six days, buying food, covering the cost of heating my room, paying for laundry and other incidentals.

Purchases include bacon (30 cents), half a dozen eggs (28 cents), a pound of beef sausages (45 cents), a small packet of cigaret tobacco (43 cents), a half pound can of cigaret tobacco ($1.68), two packets of cigaret papers (10 cents).

Food which I have accepted from friends since I last acknowledged any is half a dozen cookies, two slices of toast and butter and a piece of pie.

Breakfast yesterday was two bowls of puffed wheat with reconstituted milk and a little sugar, two slices of toast with margarine and marmalade and two cups of coffee.

I missed lunch and had half a pound of sausages, mixed vegetables, a bowl of cornflakes with reconstituted milk and sugar and two cups of tea for dinner.

Three plugs of tobacco, a small packet of cigars and a pound of tea which were left at The Daily Colonist office yesterday will be given to the free food stall, together with any food I have left over at the end of the month.